G-TFI FGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: GENEVA

Control: 14398

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MAY 22, 1959

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Info SS

TO:

Secretary of State

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NO:

SECTO 105, MAY 22, 4 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT SECTO 105; REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 136,

LONDON 482. PARIS 259.

RMR

FROM THE SECRETARY.

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

I MET THIS NOON WITH COUVE, LLOYD AND VONBRENTANO. LLOYD LEAVING FOR LONDON TONIGHT AND VONBRENTANO FOR BONN.

WE WERE AGREED THAT BY CLOSE TODAY'S SESSIONS FORMAL SPEECHES PRESENTING WESTERN PLAN AND SOVIET TREATY PROPOSAL. REBUTTALS AND COUNTER REBUTTALS HAD CARRIED CONFERENCE ABOUT AS FAR AS IT COULD GO IN THIS SEMI_PUBLIC PHASE. CONTINUATION CONFER_ ENCE NEXT WEEK ON SAME BASIS WOULD BE REPETITIOUS AND STERILE. IT WAS ACCORDINGLY AGREED THAT ONE OF WESTERN MINISTERS WOULD SOUND OUT GROMYKO EARLY NEXT WEEKION PRIVATE MEETING WITH RESTRICTED NUMBERS IN ONE OF VILLAS. GERMAN ADVISERS WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED AND FROM PAST HINTS GROMYKO WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THIS ASPECT.

HAVING ALREADY AGREED WITH LLOYD THAT PROGRESS IN NUCLEAR TEST NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS SOVIET TICKET TO SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHICH THEY STILL GIVE IMPRESSION OF DEFINITELY DESIRING, AREAS OF POSSIBLE PROGRESS PROBABLY LIE IN AGREEMENT TO RESTART DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN SOME APPROPRIATE FORUM AND/OR AT LEAST OUTLINE OF AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD IMPROVE SITUATION IN BERLIN WITHOUT IMPAIRMENT WESTERN LEGAL RIGHTS.

BY_AGREEMENT COUVE WILL SPEAK THIS AFTERNOON IN CONFERENCE ON

DECLASSIFIED

Authority ... M.R. 17-8/

BERLIN

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION FROM THIS -2- SECTO 105, MAY 22, 4 PM, FROM GENEVA.

BERLIN ELEMENT OF WESTERN PLAN. EXPECTATION IS THIS WILL DRAW REPLY FROM GROMYKO MONDAY, AFTER WHICH WE WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE TERRAIN.

MEANWHILE COORDINATING GROUP WILL MEET OVER WEEKEND AND FOUR WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET MONDAY MORNING TO EXCHANGE MORE MATURED THOUGHTS ABOVE SUBJECTS AND REACH AGREED LINE WHICH COUVE WILL PRESENT ON BEHALF OF ALL TO GROMYKO AT BILATERAL LUNCH ON MONDAY TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN INVITED.

VONBRENTANO EXPRESSED EXTREME UNEASINESS AT IMPLICATIONS OF ANY THOUGHT SEEKING FROM GROMYKO ASSURANCE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE NO UNILATERAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO WEST BERLIN UNTIL AFTER SUMMIT MEETING ON GROUNDS THIS GAVE SOVIETS FREE HAND AT CONCLUSION ANY SUMMIT MEETING AND IN A SENSE PLACED WESTERN PARTICIPANTS UNDER PRESSURE. HE EXPRESSED MARKED PREFERENCE FOR ANY PROVISIONAL ASSURANCES FROM SOVIETS TAKING FORM OF EXPLICIT ACKNOWLEDGMENT WESTERN RIGHTS OF PRESENCE AND ACCESS BERLIN.

HERTER